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United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

July 26, 2016

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The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:


I was recently contacted by Lansing, Iowa, Mayor Mike Brennan regarding the closure of Blumenthal Lansing Company, a longtime button-maker in Lansing, Iowa. The factory, which ceased operation on July 16, has resulted in the loss of approximately 70 jobs. Lansing is a town of just 1,000 people, so a job loss of this magnitude will hit the community and workers hard. Small business owners throughout Lansing are justifiably nervous about the negative economic effect this closure will have on them.

Mayor Brennan contacted me seeking my help to encourage state economic development officials and the Department of Labor in assisting the displaced employees in finding new opportunities. If the state requests federal assistance, it is my hope that the Department of Labor would take quick action to assist the displaced workers and aid the efforts of the state, regional and local organizations and economic development leaders in response to this closure.

I would also request that the Department of Labor quickly consider any additional requests for assistance, including any potential request for a National Dislocated Worker Grant to help workers and provide assistance to those affected by the Blumenthal Lansing closure. The services and employment training facilitated by the Department of Labor would be critical in helping the affected workers get back on their feet and find suitable employment as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Terry Branstad
Governor, State of Iowa
Ms. Beth Townsend
Director, Iowa Workforce Development

Committee Assignments:

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